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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 100, July 22, Noon.

King Leopold accompained by Prince Baudoin and Prince of Liege his second son returned to Brussels this morning at 7:14. The Princess de Rethy did not accompany King. Extensive security precautions were taken. Press correspondents estimating that 5,000 troops and 3,000 gendarmes lined highway from airport to palace at Laeken where Leopold has taken up residence.

A Crown Council will meet with King at 3 p.m. today composed of Ministers of Caretaker Government and Ministers of State as preliminary consultation to forming new Government. Since Socialists have sworn to renounce titles including that of Minister of State and are boycotting any political activity in which Leopold is concerned it seems likely that Crown Council will consist mostly of PSC members.

Brussels is calm and populace seems to take King's arrival phlegmatically.

MURPHY

EHL:LQB

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